

Indiana defines a brownfield site as a parcel of real estate that:

- is abandoned or inactive; or
- may not be operated at its appropriate use; and
- on which expansion, redevelopment, or reuse is complicated because of the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, a contaminant, petroleum, or a petroleum product that poses a risk to human health and the environment.

As our undeveloped greenspace continues to disappear, it is becoming more and more important to redevelop and reuse land that has already undergone development. The existence of buildings and infrastructure, and access to transportation resources can actually lower the costs to a potential developer. Redevelopment of brownfield properties benefits entire communities by rejuvenating vacant properties, increasing the tax base and reducing blight. However, because the potential environmental liability at these properties is unknown, prospective purchasers are often unwilling to assume the risk of undetermined potential cleanup costs. Thus, the properties remain idle.



Indiana Brownfields Program

The Indiana Brownfields Program (Program) was created by 2005 legislation (Senate Enrolled Act 578) that merged the brownfield financial and technical review programs into one program, thereby combining existing brownfield resources to better assist communities with brownfield redevelopment. The Indiana Brownfields Program works in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other Indiana agencies to assist communities in making productive use of their brownfield properties.

How can the Indiana Brownfields Program help?

Financial Assistance

The Indiana Brownfields Program offers financial assistance for environmental site assessment, remediation, and demolition under certain circumstances to eligible public and private entities.

Environmental Technical Assistance

The Indiana Brownfields Program performs technical oversight and review for all projects receiving financial and/or legal assistance from the Program and U.S. EPA.

Liability and Legal Assistance

To address the fear of potential environmental liability, the Indiana Brownfields Program offers Comfort and Site Status Letters. These letters are designed to assess or limit the liability of site owners and prospective purchasers for past actions by previous owners, so as to encourage an entity to redevelop a brownfield property.

Education and Outreach

The Indiana Brownfields Program participates in various seminars and conferences across the state to inform stakeholders of available resources to facilitate brownfield redevelopment. The Program is also available to conduct additional informal workshops and meetings upon request.

Additional Resources

- www.brownfields.IN.gov
- www.epa.gov/brownfields
- www.IN.gov/idem
- www.hud.gov
- www.icma.org
- www.nemw.org
- www.nado.org



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*Environmental Stewardship.
Economic Development.*

The Indiana Brownfields Program works in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other Indiana agencies to assist in the cleanup and reuse of brownfields by helping communities identify and mitigate environmental barriers that impede sustainable redevelopment and local economic growth.